THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF EDUCATION AND CULTURE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI KRISHNA SAHI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) No, Sir. According to 1981 Census, the national literacy rate is 36.23. The percentage of illiteracy therefore is 63.77.

(c) The main thrust areas in the Seventh Plan to raise the literacy level include achievement of universal elementary education, non-formal education and eradication of illiteracy in the age-group 15—35 years. National Policy on Education—1986 envisages following strategies to raise the level of literacy;

(i) Systematic Programmes of adult education will be organised for eradication of illiteracy, particularly in the 15—35 age-group;

(ii) Thrust will be laid on universal enrolment and universal retention of children upto 14 years of age.

(iii) A large and systematic programme of non-formal education will be launched for school dropouts, for children from habitations without schools, working children and girls who cannot attend whole day schools.

(iv) Highest priority will given to solve the problem of children dropping out of school by adopting meticulously formulated strategies to ensure children's retention at school.

(v) Special measure will be taken up for the removal of illiteracy among women, Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes.

Multi-pronged operational strategies have been concretised in the document "Programme of Action", which was laid on the Table of the Sabha on 8th August, 1986, to operationalise above policy parameters.

**Junior doctors demands**

*39. SHRI SHANTI TYAGI:
SHRI MAHENDRA PRASAD:

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that nearly 25,000 junior doctors of Delhi hospitals observed a token strike on October, 15, 1986 and started a hunger strike at the Boat Club from the following day;

(b) whether the striking doctors have submitted memorandum of their demands; and

(c) if so, what is the reaction of Government with regard to their demands?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (KUMARI SAROJ KHAPARDE): (a) Junior doctors in six major hospitals of Delhi numbering about 2000 observed a token strike on October 15, 1986. There is no information that they started hunger strike at the Boat Club from the following day.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) The main demand of Junior Doctors relates to enhancement of emoluments and is being considered in consultation with Ministry of Finance and other concerned authorities.

**Painting and sculpture damaged at Festivals of India in USA and France**

*40. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA:
SHRI NIRMAL CHATTERJEE:

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that about seven of the invaluable paintings and sculptures including the third century B.C. sandstone masterpiece, the Didarganj Yakshi, have been damaged at the Festivals of India in France and U.S.A.;